

*Physical Disabilities
Through the Lifespan*



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:



**Issues Today for
People with
Disabilities and
the Service
Network**

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State of the Field

- Emergency/disaster planning is conducted in isolation vs. in a coordinated, integrated and systemic manner re: disability and service networks.
- Attention has been focused on general emergency preparedness, with a lack of serious and consistent attention to unique emergency needs of the disability population.
- At present, very little quantitative or qualitative research exists regarding emergency/disaster impact on people with disabilities (especially the pediatric population with special medical needs).



Problems/Concerns/Issues

- System: recognize the trusted networks already in place within disability community; a need to enhance these resources vs. creating new delivery system
- Legal: examine liability concerns when non-traditional resources are used to provide health services during emergency
- Fiscal: lack of funds to provide necessary redundancy and anticipatory equipment purchases
- Information: need for balance between too little and too much information and subsequent effects on disability community



Research Priorities

- SN emergency equipment/tools review and minimum federal standards
- Insert emergency planning for PwD within core curriculum across all professional training; educate providers about preparedness and empower end-users during standard care review
- Identify how disaster can impact the MH of PwD: Will it re-traumatize? Is there increased or decreased anxiety during alerts based on everyday coping needs?
- Evaluate how home care agencies can be brought into national and local surveillance, response, delivery systems & message dissemination; what barriers need to be removed to enable this new role